No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/10/04 : LOC-HAK-548-2-12-8

ETS-HK-RD58493

~~TOP SECRET~~
SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODE WORD

EGA026
OO WTE22
DE WTE #3117 2252105

O 152101Z AUG 72
FM THE SITUATION ROOM
TO PETER RODMAN
ZEM
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORDWH27164

TOHAK25

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

AUGUST 15, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

MORI PER C03353178

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

VIETNAM MILITARY SITUATION: ARVN FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY REOCCUPIED FSB RAKKAJAN, IN WESTERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, WITHOUT OPPOSITION. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAITHEENTIRE NVA 312TH DIVISION MAY SOON BE DEPLOYED IN NORTHERN MILITARY REGION 1.

IN MILITARY REGION 2, ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY AN ATTACK-BY-FIRE ON KONTUM AIRPORT. SIX ROUNDS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED CALIBER SHELL HIT THE AIRFIELD IN THE FIRST SUCH ATTACK THERE SINCE MAY.

VICE ADMIRALCHUNG TAN CANG, COMMANDER OF THE CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT, ANTICIPATES INTENSIFICATION OF ENEMY GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND POSSIBLE ROCKET ATTACKS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN AND AROUND SAIGON IN THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER. THE ADMIRAL ALSO BELIEVES ENEMY FORCES MAY ATTEMPT TO INTERDICT ROUTE 4 TOISOLATE SAIGON FROM THE DELTA. HOWEVER, HE SEES NO PRESENT MAIN FORCE THREAT TO THE SAIGON AREA.

State Dept., JCS and NSA reviews completed

ENEMY LOGISTICS: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUE TO STREAMLINE THEIR LOGISTICS ORGANIZATION IN SOUTHERN LAOS AND NORTHEASTERN CAMBODIA, IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING DRY SEASON. IN MAY THEY MERGED TWO LOGISTICS UNITS, AND TWO OTHERS WERE CONSOLIDATED IN JUNE. COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE HAS RECENTLY INDICATED THAT TWO MORE BINH TRAMS IN CAMBODIA HAVE NOW BEEN MERGED. IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY SUPERVISING LOGISTICS OPERATIONS IN THIS REGION WAS SCHEDULED TO SHIFT ITS HEADQUARTERS SOUTHWARD IN LATE JULY.

SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS OF LAOS: PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE INCREASED NUMBER OF SOVIET FLIGHTS OVER LAOS

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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TOP SECRET
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TO NORTH VIETNAM, BUT CIA BELIEVES HE IS NOT LIKELY TO ACT TO STOP THEM. SOUVANNA, WHO APPARENTLYHKSUMES THAT THE FLIGHTS INVOLVE MILITARY CARGO, ASKED AMBASSADOR GODLEY WHETHER SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO CURTAIL THEM WITHOUT IRRITATING THE SOVIETS. UNDER THETERMS OF THE LAO-SOVIET CIVIL AIRAGREEMENT, SOUVANNA CAN REJECT THE REQUESTS AND ASK TO INSPECT THE CARGO. SOUVANNA, HOWEVER, TOLD GODLEY THAT HE WOULD NOT REFUSE PERMISSION BECAUSE HE STILL HOPEDTHAT MOSCOW WILL EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE EVENTUALLY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE LAO PROBLEM. 25X1

[redacted]

JAPANESE-NATIONALIST CHINESE TREATY TOEND: JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA REITERATED TODAY THAT JAPAN RECOGNIZEDPEKING AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT REPRSSENTING CHINA; THEREFORE, IT COULD NOT MAINTAIN ITS PEACE TREATY WITH TAIWAN WHEN IT NORMALIZEDRELATIONS WITH CHINA. ACCORDING TOTOKYO KYODO, THIS IS CAUSING DISSENTION AMONGRIGHT-WING MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHO HAVE SAID THEY CANNOT AGREE TO DISCONTINUING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH TAIWAN. 25X1

[redacted]

EVENING STAR: ALTHOUGH MARY MCGRORY MAINTAINS THAT RAMSEY CLARK IS BEING SET UP AS AN ISSUE IN THE 1972 CAMPAIGN AS ONE WHO IS SOFT ON COMMUNISM, AN EDITORIAL DESCRIBES HIS

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TOP SECRET
SENSITIVE
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RECENT PERFORMANCE AS "INCREDIBLY NAIVE." IT CONCLUDES THAT AS A FORMER CABINET MEMBER, HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WITH YOUR COMMUTING BETWEEN HERE AND PARIS TO RECEIVE ANY MEANINGFUL MESSAGES, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT NEED ANY VOLUNTEER "MESSENGERS" TO CONVEY HANOI'S LATEST WORD.

ORR KELLY WRITES THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN INDOCHINA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MARKEDLY DIFFERENT HAD THE UNITED STATES MINED HARBORS, WAGED AN ALL OUT AIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM, AND REDUCED ITS WAR MAKING POTENTIAL TO ZERO EARLY IN THE WAR. FROM THIS HE REASONS THAT THE CURRENT USE OF AMERICAN SEA AND AIR POWER AGAINST THE NORTH IS UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE ANY PERMANENT CHANGE IN INDOCHINA OR END THE WAR.

1902

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